

camp just on the other side of the border fence in Texas.

Now, my heart, Mr. Speaker, goes out to these people, but we cannot let them be allowed to overwhelm our border and to enter our country illegally.

These individuals, Mr. Speaker, have been offered asylum and work permits by Mexico, but they have refused.

Homeland Security has confirmed that 600 known criminals are among those in the encampment, and beyond that, we simply do not know, Mr. Speaker, who these people are.

This dangerous situation is going to get only worse, unless it is addressed. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I have connected with almost every one of our 235 Republican Members in the House, asking them to join me to solve this national security and immigration problem.

There is overwhelming support, Mr. Speaker, to do so, and I will bring this up tomorrow at conference, along with lots of other Republicans.

The primary responsibility of Congress is to protect our families, Mr. Speaker. This is our last chance as Republicans in the majority to fix this mess. Otherwise, next year, the Democrat majority has signaled they will push for open borders and amnesty legislation.

This is our last chance as Republicans in the majority to get this right.

HONORING SHALYNNE VILELA

(Mr. KIHUEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to share the story of Shalynne Vilela, the loving daughter of Amy and David Vilela.

At just 22 years old, Shalynne was a smart, ambitious, and dedicated young woman who loved her family. She was working hard to become a registered nurse.

In 2015, Shalynne was admitted to the ER with symptoms of deep vein thrombosis, a highly treatable condition, if treated in time.

Upon arrival to the ER, Shalynne told the hospital staff that she did not have insurance, and she was advised to leave the hospital without being given proper care.

Three weeks later, Shalynne died of a pulmonary embolism caused by a blood clot that originated in her leg.

It is unacceptable that, in one of the richest and most powerful countries in the world, a tragedy like this can still occur. Everyone in the United States of America should have access to quality and affordable health insurance. Access to healthcare is a basic human right, and no one should ever be denied medical care because of their inability to pay.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, I have recently pledged my support to the Medicare for All Act, which provides universal coverage to all those living in the United States of America.

My deepest condolences go out to the Vilela family. And, Shalynne, this one is for you.

LET'S HELP OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS SUCCEED

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, many of us will see this as the holiday season, but many of us know that our young college students will be finishing their first semester of whatever year they are in college.

As I was home this season greeting my constituents, one very dedicated constituent came to me and said: What are we doing about helping students get rid of this enormous burden of debt, trying to become a contributing citizen to this country?

I made a commitment to him that we would work together to reduce the interest rates on student government loans, to look forward to providing access to education to all Americans.

I believe, as students finish their first semester, looking to their second, some of them graduating, that we do have a responsibility to make sure that education is reasonable, accessible, and not the enormous burden that it is.

Let's help our college students. Let's help them succeed. I look forward to doing that.

HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this very Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, few Americans will ever rival the depth and the breadth of the service to our Nation exhibited by George Herbert Walker Bush.

Today, I join the Bush family, my colleagues, fellow Texans, and a grateful Nation in remembering and honoring the life of President George H.W. Bush.

He was a courageous war hero, a key member of the Committee on Ways and Means while he was here in Congress, Ambassador, Director of the CIA, Vice President, and the President of the United States.

That is a remarkable and historical level of service to America, but I still

think his favorite title was that of husband to his beloved Bar, and I believe his greatest accomplishment was in raising children and grandchildren who serve their Nation with dedication and patriotism.

I believe our country and our State can agree that we have lost a man of honor and character, who leaves a legacy of love and service to his Nation and family.

So, today, we all want to share with you a little bit about our relationship with the beloved President Bush.

I consider myself a proud part of the Bush legacy. On the Ways and Means Committee, I hold the seat that was previously held by President Bush, then a Member of Congress, and Bill Archer of Houston, later the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee from Texas. I am truly blessed to be part of a legacy on this committee that has achieved so much.

As a matter of fact, my interest in major issues from trade to tax reform to healthcare is due in large part to President Bush. After I became elected to Congress, I spent a lot of time visiting President Bush and Secretary James Baker, asking their advice on these issues. In fact, one of the reasons I have been involved in 12 of the 14 American free trade agreements and led the Central American Free Trade Agreement was directly because of my discussions with President Bush and Secretary Baker.

President Bush was incredibly supportive of me, both in my early campaigns for Congress and once I started serving. There was always an open door to talk about issues dealing in tax and trade, healthcare, welfare, Social Security, and Medicare. I always knew I had someone I could lean on for sage advice.

Because I used to represent College Station, I had the pleasure of being in office when President Bush's library was opened at A&M, and I worked closely with the foundation for the 8 years I represented it.

The library is remarkable, but it goes way beyond the bricks and mortar. It is a tangible reminder of the impact President Bush had on College Station and the State of Texas.

The library brought world leaders to College Station, allowed young men and women from the small towns in Texas to interact with President Bush as well as United States and world leaders on a one-on-one, close, personal level. That incredible legacy for those young people will last for ages to come.

I will finish with this. One of my favorite moments with President Bush came just after I was named Ways and Means chairman. President Bush's office reached out and said the President wanted me to come down to his office in Houston and visit about Ways and Means issues, so, you can imagine, I was thrilled about it.

So I went to his office, and my staff really urged me to take a pair of crazy socks to present to President Bush, because he loved them; he wore them; he